

## REMARKS

In view of the foregoing claim amendments, and the remarks that follow, applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are requested.

Rejection of Claim 28 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as Being Allegedly Anticipated by Streit et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0119921)

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a method of locally decreasing the amount or biological activity of thrombospondin 2 in an animal, wherein the method includes the step of introducing into an animal a medical device adapted to be affixed to, or implanted within, soft tissue of an animal. Applicants submit that support for this limitation is found in the specification, such as in Example 1, which discloses implantation of a collagen matrix, impregnated with antisense TSP2 molecules, into a mouse. This limitation is neither disclosed nor suggested in the Streit et al. publication. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that the Streit et al. publication does not anticipate amended Claim 28.

Rejection of Claims 28 and 31-36 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph, for Alleged Lack of Enablement

Claim 28 has been amended to recite a method of locally decreasing the amount or biological activity of thrombospondin 2 in an animal, the method comprising the step of introducing into an animal a medical device adapted to be affixed to, or implanted within, soft tissue of an animal, wherein the medical device comprises antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecules that consist of the complement of the nucleic acid molecule set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

Applicants submit that the specification teaches how to make such implantable medical devices (see, e.g., page 20, line 23 through page 25, line 17), and discloses that a collagen matrix

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impregnated with antisense thrombospondin 2 molecules (complementary to a thrombospondin 2 cDNA) elicited a reduced foreign body reaction compared to the foreign body reaction elicited by a collagen matrix that was not impregnated with antisense thrombospondin 2 molecule (see Example 1). Thus, applicants submit that the specification fully enables the subject matter of amended Claim 28, and claims depending therefrom.

Rejection of Claim 34 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph, for Alleged Lack of Written Description

Claim 34 has been canceled. Applicants submit that this claim rejection is now moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing claim amendments and arguments, applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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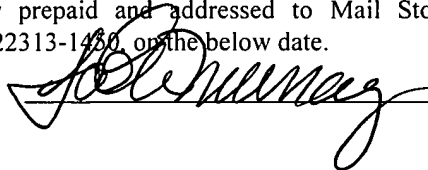


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